

-- claim 1 --;

Claim 26, lines 3 and 4, ~~delete~~ "any one of claims 1 to 24" and ~~insert~~

-- claim 1 --;

Claim 29, line 4, ~~delete~~ "or claim 27";

Claim 30, line 1, ~~delete~~ "any one of claims 26 to 29" and ~~insert~~ -- claim 26 --;

Claim 31, line 5, ~~delete~~ "any one of claims 1 to 24" and ~~insert~~ -- claim 1 --;

Claim 32, lines 1 and 2, ~~delete~~ "or claim 31";

Claim 35, line 2, ~~delete~~ "any one of claims 32 to 34" and ~~insert~~ -- claim 32 --;

Claim 37, line 1, ~~delete~~ "or claim 36";

Claim 38, line 2, ~~delete~~ "any one of claims 35 to 37" and ~~insert~~ -- claim 35 --;

Claim 39, line 2, ~~delete~~ "any one of claims 32 to 34" and ~~insert~~ -- claim 32 --;

Claim 42, line 1, ~~delete~~ "or claim 41";

Claim 43, line 1, ~~delete~~ "any one of claims 40 to 42" and ~~insert~~ -- claim 40 --;

Claim 44, lines 1 and 2, ~~delete~~ "any one of claims 40 to 43" and ~~insert~~

-- claim 40 --;

Claim 45, lines 1 and 2, ~~delete~~ "any one of claims 1 to 24" and ~~insert~~

-- claim 1 --;

lines 4 and 5, ~~delete~~ "any one of claims 21 to 24. 18 August 1999"

and ~~insert~~ -- claim 21 --

Please add the following new claims:

46. A nucleic acid comprising a sequence encoding a modified inducible promoter obtainable by the method of claim 25 which is at least 70%; 80%; 90%; 95% or 98% identical to the sequence of the inducible promoter of claim 27.

47. A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 31.

48. A method as claimed in claim 36 wherein the host cell is a mycolic acid bacterium of the same strain from which the inducible promoter and/or operon proteins were isolated.

49. A method as claimed in claim 41 wherein the signal is detected by an increased expression of a heterologous signal protein from a signal gene.

REMARKS

The purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to delete multiple claim dependencies.

Favorable consideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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